

The Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 24 and 25 with the following paragraph:

32 During operation of module 20, control unit 40 may use tap 118 and monitor 120 to measure the Raman pump power. By using the measured Raman pump power for a given OTDR pulse and the calibration data stored in control unit 40, reflected OTDR signal measurements may be made accurately enough to determine the absolute value of the signals in trace 82 of FIG. 7, rather than just the relative trace shape. For example, control unit 40 may use the y-intercept value or extrapolated y-intercept value of trace 82 to measure the Rayleigh backscattering coefficient α_R at the pump wavelength. The ability to accurately measure the absolute value of the reflected signal assists control unit 40 in using measured values of P_R in characterizing span 16.

The Claims

Cancel claims 12 and 15-17.

Amend claim 1 as follows:

32 1. (Twice Amended) Optical amplifier equipment that amplifies optical data signals in a fiber-optic communications